

LET'S GET INTO IT

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ASPIRA PROJECT B.E.A.M. 10

Issue #1

Spring, 1997

Editorial

Susana Rivera, Associate Director

It is with great pleasure and pride that Aspira Project B.E.A.M. Ten presents: **Let's Get Into It: "We can make a difference"**, our community literary magazine. Our biannual magazine will give the voices of the children and their families an open forum where they can showcase and discuss their ideas, issues, and concerns. It will be another vehicle by which we can affirm and recognize their talents.

It is the intent of the Beacon School to collaborate with P.S. 86 in their mission to support children in becoming successful students. Our program is an extension of the school day; therefore, all activities incorporate the school mission and philosophy, which is to prepare students to become productive leaders for the 21st century. So, LET'S GET INTO IT!!!

ONE PARENT'S VIEW

R. Benitez-Curtis

ASPIRA B.E.A.M. 10 at P.S. 86 enables our youth to achieve by providing Leadership Development Programs, academic, tutorial, remediation, and recreational programs, as well as summer programs.

Programs offered at the school are English as a Second Language for adults, a Parent Leadership Club, and computer classes. Programs run Monday through Saturday, after school and evenings from 3:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. and on the weekends, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m..

Parents and children were notified of these programs through neighborhood outreach. The outcome of the outreach provided over 1,000 persons signing up for the various programs. The project, at this time, cannot accommodate so many. Waiting lists have been established, for some programs, while others are waiting for more participants.

These programs were instituted in our school for you, your children, and this community. We should make every effort to continue utilizing all these programs. This way we will get other programs in the future that will continue to benefit us all. This literary magazine is part of that effort, written by your children and mine (come and be a part of it).

ASPIRA Project B.E.A.M. 10 encourages parent participation and the program would strengthen its endeavors greatly if more parents volunteered.

Only through leadership development and education can we show continued pride and commitment to our community and our children.

"Let's Get Into It" We can make a difference!

Table of Contents

	Page
One Parent's View.....	# 1
Recreation/Creative Arts Program.....	# 2
Educational Services Program.....	# 2-3
Winter.....	# 3
Sharclean.....	# 3
Celebrating Art with 3-307.....	# 3
Recreation: Latin American	
Heritage Month Tournament.....	# 4
Purple/Violeta.....	# 5
Oh, The Things I Could Be.....	# 5
Cadets: One Boy's Point of View.....	# 5
What Can I Say?.....	# 6
They're Important to Me.....	# 6
Drawings by Walter.....	# 7
Recuerdos.....	# 8
Los Tres Reyes de Arecibo.....	# 8

Dear readers,

This, our primer issue, is a true labor of love. We are a small band of writers and dreamers with a need to share our words and our feelings. We present ourselves and our friends to you in our poetry, stories, impressions and idea. We hope that we not only entertain you but that we help you see our school community and our world differently.

If after reading us, you too feel inspired and the need to share a piece of your heart, please don't hesitate to give us your poems and stories - - so that we may enjoy them and then share them with the rest of our community.

E. Coriano
Editor in chief

EDITORIAL STAFF

E. Coriano Teacher/Supervisor
R. Benitez-Curtis Parent/Advisor

Darlis Cruz
Andrew Curtis
Walter Curtis
Michelle Montenegro
Carolina Perez
Mathew Perez

Contributors
Mark Gonzalez
Christopher Jimenez
Jackie Jordan
Michelle Montenegro
Violeta Montenegro
Cynthia Natasico
Bryan Rivera

Special thanks to R. Serrano for
setting all our type.

Recreation/Creative Arts Program

Coordinator: Mark Gonzalez

The Recreation/ Creative Arts Program is an innovative program in which leadership development is incorporated to motivate the participants.

The recreation unit incorporates the "leadership through recreation" curriculum, in which participants learn critical thinking, leadership and social skills, as well as rules and regulations through sports and games.

Raymond Colon, Senior Recreational Specialist, facilitates the curriculum for the Fall Cultural Academy, Monday through Thursday, 4:30 - 6 pm. Bryan Rivera, Recreational Specialist, facilitates the curriculum for the teen and adult evening programs: Monday - Wednesday - Friday ages 14-17; Tuesday - Thursday ages 18 and over; Saturdays 10am-12 noon (adults), 12noon-3:00pm (11-13 years old); 3-8pm (14 - 21 year old).

The creative arts unit incorporates the same values as the recreational unit but includes arts and multicultural history.

Monica Martinez facilitates the Leadership through a dance program, Tuesdays and Thursdays 4: to 6:00pm and Saturdays 1:00pm to 4:00pm for ages 8-17.

Gail Felix facilitates Arts/Crafts on Wednesdays 4:00pm to 6:00pm for ages 6-8. Maria Urbina facilitates the same program on Mondays and Thursdays 4:00pm to 6:00pm for ages 9-13 and Saturdays from 12:00pm to 3:00pm for adults.

Coming soon: The Three Kings Celebration, Drama, Video Arts workshops and ASPIRATIONS on Bronxnet channel 67.

Educational Services Program

Coordinator: Jackie Jordan

Through the Educational Services provided, here, at Project B.E.A.M. 10, participants not only develop their academic skills but also develop non-academic skills, such as self-confidence, a skill needed to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. The educational activities help participants focus on their strengths and their potential to be strong students, who are in control of their academic futures.

Students' performance in major academic areas improve in the Homework Help Club, and Proyecto Futuro, a science and math programs. Students who have failed reading, writing or math classes are helped in Remedial Labs. Older participants are helped to improve their English skills in English as a Second

Continued on page 3

Educational Services Program

continued from page 2

Language classes. Youth are introduced to various institutions of higher learning by going on College Trips. The Beacon Web Cafe introduces, engages and enhances students' computer literacy. Youths who are business-oriented are encouraged to become entrepreneurs in the Career Awareness Program.

Opportunities for cultural exchanges outside the immediate community are provided via Cultural Trips, where participants develop more positive attitudes towards different ethnic and cultural groups.

Participants improve their creative writing skills and gain some editorial experience via the production of a literary magazine in the Newsletter program.

The educational staff and its dedicated volunteers work hard to create and maintain a nurturing atmosphere for all the students participating in the Project B.E.A.M. 10 programs.

Winter

Winter is a time for cold
So cold you have to dress...
Very warm
Mittens and gloves, hats, and
scarfs
Are the most important things
Of winter.

Carlina Perez

Sharclean

Materials

small sharpener
small plastic container
one milk cap
hole puncher
crazy glue

Instructions

1. Glue the milk cap to the side of the container.
2. Punch a hole into the container's cap big enough for the sharpener's hole to show through.
3. Glue sharpener to container cap. Let dry.

For seasonal touch

- a. Santa face may be added: soda cap can be used for face, cotton balls for hair and beard.
- b. Jack o'lantern face may be painted for Halloween and container can be painted orange.
- c. Bunny ears and a tail can be attached for Easter, use cotton ball and white felt.

Andrew Curtis

Celebrating Art with 3-307

Mrs. J. North and her class 3-307 had the opportunity to attend art classes at Lehman College. The art classes were for two months, every Wednesday from 10:15-11:15 p.m. The children were taught by student-teachers under direct instruction from Professor

Andrea Zagin.

Parents were also encouraged to attend. Those that attended were Ms. Susan Figueroa, Ms. Norma Padilla and myself.

Class 3-307 enjoyed working with many mediums and materials in art. These included crayons, markers, crayons and watercolors. The children created before and after pictures which incorporated writing. They created stories and booklets that included using magazine cut-outs (collage method).

The art class came to an end with an Art Celebration, held at P.S. 86 in Mrs. North's classroom in November. It was attended by teachers, parents, Principal Benardo and Assistant principals Marlene Kitrosser and Janet Rothstein. (Food and beverages were provided by the teachers and the student teachers.)

The children's artwork was on display just outside room 307. The teachers and students showed off the artworks to parents and other invited guests. The children were very pleased with their art exhibits. The Art Celebration was indeed a wonderful finale to the art class.

Mrs. J. R. Curtis

RECREATION: LATIN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH TOURNAMENT

Here's the scoop... 15 seconds left—Orange up by one point—Black has the ball. Instead of holding on to it for the last shot, as instructed, David Caba shoots an airball—Orange gets the rebound. Black time-out! David Caba and Donald Hazel are instructed to press the ball. Ball is inbounded—Donald strips the ball away—He gets fouled—1 and 1. His first shot: SWISHH! Game is now tied. His second shot: Swishh! NOTHING BUT NET!! 8 seconds left—ball gets inbounded to Orange's 6-6 Center, Dean Browne. He gets fouled—1 and 1. His first shot: bounces high off the rim—both teams fight for the ball—Black get the rebound. The only team to beat Yellow—the only team to beat Orange—The only team to wear black. Always bet on the Black.

The genesis of Aspira's Project B.E.A.M. 10 basketball tournament was more of a lesson to be learned than that of a success story. Inadequate referees, blatant disregard for rules, and the rumor of "ringers", caused great tension for most of the tournament. At times the obstacles faced were more of a challenge than the actual competition. In the end, the pride that the participants showed wearing their tournament shirts was proof that they looked past the drawbacks and enjoyed the

event.

The tournament was titled "Latin-American Heritage Tournament". There were seven teams, ranging in age from fourteen to seventeen years old. The format was "round robin" which permitted each team the opportunity to face every other team in the tournament. The top four teams went to the playoffs, for a one game elimination championship series.

The top four teams were close in record but not in talent. The "Yellowjackets" led by the Bonilla family, finished with a 5-1 record with its only loss to the "Da Business". The "Aqueduct Assassins", a late entry, was by far the skilled squad. It finished with a 4-2 record. (Both its losses were by forfeit.) "Red Rage" led by Beacorn's most familiar faces, Kevin Belton, Eladio Lopez, and Michael Cruz, also finished with a 4-2 record. "Da Business", one of the youngest

teams, thrown together like patches on a quilt, also finished with a 4-2 record.

The playoffs were held at JHS 139, scheduling was by pick of the draw. Game One: Yellowjackets vs. Da Business. Game Two: Red Rage vs. Aqueduct Assassins. Da Business was victorious in Game One, while the Aqueduct Assassins beat out the opposition in Game Two, sending these two teams into the championship game.

The championship game was held at the LPAC's Urban Ministry Complex. Despite the Aqueduct Assassins' height advantage, Da Business walked into the final game with the motto, "Always bet on Black!" This attitude was like having an additional member on the team. This was truly a championship game, each minute filled with excitement but the final fifteen seconds were the most dramatic of all.

Bryan Rivera
Recreational Specialist



Purple

Purple of my life
Or a mysterious sky
The purple in the ice
that forms a small rainbow
This color is my favorite
because it is really intense.

In all places
we can see this color.
is very popular
and I think
is above in space
and below too.

Violeta

El violeta de mi vida
o un cielo misterioso
El violeta en el hielo
que forma un pequeño arcoiris
Este color es mi favorito
porque es realmente intenso

En todos los sitios
podemos ver este color.
es muy popular
y yo pienso
esta arriba en el espacio
y abajo también.

Michelle Montenegro

Oh, The Things I Could Be

If I could be a flower, I'd be a Venus Fly Trap because my food would come to me.
If I could be a food, I'd be a pizza because I would be delightful to eat.
If I could be a building, I'd be The Empire State Building because I would be in movies.
If I could be a town, I'd be Springfield because it sounds quiet.
If I could be a color, I'd be gold because it is shiny.
If I could be a car, I'd be a limo because movie stars would ride in me.
If I could be an animal, I'd be a lion because it is strong.
If I could be a musical instrument, I'd be a drum because of the sound they make.
If I could be a form of transportation, I'd be roller blades because I like to glide.
If I could be a t.v. show, I'd be The Adventures Of Batman and Robin because I would fight the villains.
If I could be a bird, I'd be a hawk because it is a graceful hunter.
If I could be a vegetable, I'd be a squash because no kid would eat me.
If I could be a video game, I'd be Mortal Kombat 3 because I could make special moves.
If I could be a foreign country, I'd be China because I like Chinese food.
I can be all of these things, in my imagination.

Walter Curtis

Cadets: One Boy's What Can I Say? Point of View



When I joined the nautical cadet I knew it was going to be hard but I didn't know how hard it would be. I am not used to being yelled at when someone is talking to me, I don't know if I'll ever get used to it.

One day I was standing very straight, my eyeballs were facing forward. "About Face," was the command. I had an itch, so I scratched. "Get down on the deck and give me ten pushups!" I got down "on this man's deck" and gave him ten pushups.

Then there are the general orders, "You, Private Perez, tell me first general order."

"Sir. The private's first general order is to take charge of this post and all cadet property in view, Sir!"

I did good for one day. The days ahead will be hard but I really want to go camping.

Mathew Perez

Speak, speak like I do in class to friends. I can't speak to people that I don't know well and they rush me to speak and I have nothing to say. I stay shut.

I like to write and sing.

My mother says I talk too much, everyone else says that I'm shy. I say that I talk some, only to people that I know.

I don't know why but when I try to talk to someone I don't know, I choke and cry. I don't know how to get myself to talk. I hate talking to people that I don't know but I like making friends. I don't get it, I always talk but choke up inside and stay quiet most of the time. I can't get rid of it no matter how I try.

I do try hard to talk but I can't.

Cynthia Natalio



They're Important to Me

My arms are very important to me because I use them a lot. I can go swimming, I can throw or catch a ball and, of course, I can hold things. You can't hold things with your feet, you know. There are many games and other things to do with your arms. I do use them to exercise with so that I can stay healthy.

Christopher Jimenez

Dear Readers & Writers,
March is Women's History Month. You are invited to submit articles, stories, or poems about American women who have made contributions to the American way of life.

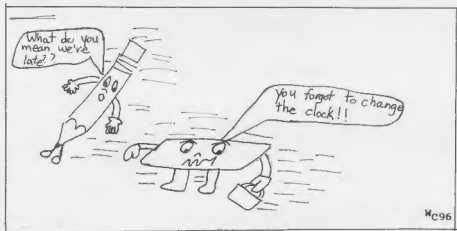
Creativity must be mixed with facts. Using no more than 150 words, tell about how this woman has influenced the history and culture of the United States.

Winners will be published in our Spring issue.

Submit all entries to Ms. J. Jordan at Aspira office in room 307A, no later than Thursday, February 13, 1997.

J. Jordan

Drawings by Walter



Recuerdos

Los de la infancia primera
cuando un porque se
encuentra
en los labios, como el
agua
que fluye en un manatí.
Suscando en un adulto la
respuesta a la
interrogante.

Los de la niñez . . .
Las travesuras, los
amigos
andanzas e inquietudes
deseos de dulces en
vidrieras y cualquier
cosa que se ocurra en
el momento de la
aventura.

Los de adolescente y
madurez
cuando creemos haber
ontenido
el conocimiento requerido
para
enfrentarnos a la vida y
poco a poco nos damos
cuenta
que con la llegada del
nuevo día
aprendemos algo nuevo.
Es entonces cuando nos
damos cuenta que cada
día es un RECUERDO.

Violeta Montenegro

*Congratulations, B.E.A.M.
10 at P.S. 86 on your first
year in service to the P.S.
86 community!*



"Los Tres Reyes de Arecibo"

The Three Kings Showcase was presented on Saturday, January 4, 1997 at P.S. 86. The play was titled, "Los Tres Reyes de Arecibo". It was an original play written by Mark Gonzalez dealing with familia, amor y fe (family, love and faith).

Felix is a 17 year old Puerto Rican born in New York City. During the 1995 holiday season he travels to Puerto Rico for his very first visit. In Puerto Rico he becomes close with his mother's family, Abuela, Tío Pillín, and his cousin Ralphie. At the family's party on "la noche buena", he is confronted with the realities of the two cultures that make up his being. All of his questions are answered in a prophetic dream, which teaches him the true meaning of familia, amor y fe.

Outstanding performances were given by Maggie Diaz (storytelling angel) and Gail Felix (Abuela).

We are looking forward to seeing bigger and better shows in the coming year.

Aspira of New York, Inc.
Project B.E.A.M. 10
P.S. 86
2756 Reservoir Avenue
Bronx, New York 10468